

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 180877

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MMOL, PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: U.S. RESIDUAL ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND: STATUS
OF NEGOTIATIONS

REF: BANGKOK 19199

1. YOU SHOULD NOW BE IN POSSESSION OF MOST OF THE PARTS
OF THE "PACKAGE" FOR YOUR SECOND ROUND WITH THE THAI.
2. HOWEVER, TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE A COMMON PERCEPTION
OF HOW THINGS STAND, THE FOLLOWING REVIEW OF HOW WE SEE
THE STATUS OF THE PACKAGE MAY BE USEFUL:

A. AIT--YOUR DRAFT MOA (BANGKOK 19159) HAS BEEN RETURNED
WITH THOSE AMENDMENTS PROVIDED IN STATE 177353. WE HAVE
JUST RECEIVED BANGKOK 20601 AND WILL COMMENT SEPTTEL.

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B. ICS--YOU HAVE OUR RECOMMENDED CHANGES (STATE 163533)

TO YOUR DRAFT MOA (BANGKOK 18468). YOU ALSO HAVE OUR DRAFT OF THE ICS BAILMENT AGREEMENT (STATE 176301).

WE NOTE KRIANGSAK'S COMMENT (BANGKOK 19911) THAT THE THAI MILITARY WOULD ONLY TRY TO OPERATE THE NORTHEASTERN

SEGMENT OF THE ICS WHICH WOULD SEEMINGLY PRECLUDE U.S. USE OF THE CHIANG MAI-TAKHLI-BANGKOK LINK. AS PER PARA 6, STATE 163533, WE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT USE OF THE EXISTING THAI SYSTEM IN LIEU OF THE ICS LINK ONLY IF U.S. TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN THAILAND JUDGE THE THAI SYSTEM CAPABLE OF MEETING OUR NEED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENT.

C. CHIANG MAI--AS INDICATED IN STATE 169617 WE APPROVED WITH CHANGES YOUR FIRST DRAFT AGREEMENT ON CHIANG MAI (BANGKOK 18879). WE SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED THE CHANGES SUBMITTED BY YOU IN BANGKOK 19316 PROVIDED YOUR SECOND DRAFT IS ALTERED TO INCORPORATE THE CHANGES WE MADE IN THE FIRST DRAFT. YOUR PROPOSED WORKING-LEVEL AGREEMENTS FOR CHIANG MAI (BANGKOK 19811 AND 20374) ARE UNDER REVIEW AS IS THE NEW DRAFT MOA SUBMITTED IN BANGKOK 20373.

WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THIS NEW DRAFT MOA STATES THAT "MATERIAL OF ANY KIND REQUIRED TO BE BROUGHT TO THAILAND BY THE UNITED STATES TO ASSIST THE (NAME OF THAI AGENCY) IN OPERATION REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF THE STATION WILL BE SUBJECT TO IMPORT DUTIES OR OTHER TAXES, DUTIES OR IMPOSTS". WE ASSUME THAT THE ABOVE QUOTED PASSAGE FROM THE MOA SHOULD HAVE BEEN WORDED IN THE NEGATIVE. PLEASE CONFIRM.

AS PER THE ROBERTS/WHITEHOUSE JULY 19 TELCON, WE HAVE HIT A SNAG ON THE USE OF THE 1963 LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY RATIONALE. PLEASE TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION ON THIS TEXT UNTIL YOU HEAR FROM US.

D. TRANSIT FLIGHTS--THE EXECUTE ORDER TO BEGIN P-3 AND DIEGO GARCIA SUPPORT FLIGHTS THROUGH TAKHLI WAS ISSUED JULY 14. WE WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN
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REPORTS OF ANY THAI REACTION ONCE THE AIRCRAFT BEGIN TO USE TAKHLI.

WE NOTE IN BANGKOK 18089 THAT THE FIGURE OF 10 AMERICAN TECHNICIANS AT TAKHLI WAS MENTIONED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. TO AVOID CONFUSION, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT DOD IS CONSIDERING AS A POSSIBLE OPTION A CIVILIAN CONTRACT FOR THE SERVICING OF TRANSIT AIRCRAFT.

E. COMINT--WE UNDERSTAND THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE THAI HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED AND THAT FINAL ACTION AWAITS CONCLUSION OF THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF OUR NEGOTIATING PACKAGE.

3. WE NOTE IN BANGKOK 19911 THAT KRIANGSAK IS LIKELY TO BE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN THE OVERALL MOA'S. WE BELIEVE THAT THE DESIGNATION OF KRIANGSAK WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR DESIRE TO STRESS THE TECHNICAL NATURE OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENTS AND AVOID ELEVATING THE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE POLICY LEVEL (PARA 6, STATE 169617). ALTHOUGH THE CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY WHICH WE ARE SEEKING AUTHORIZES THE "AMBASSADOR OR HIS DESIGNEE" TO SIGN THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS THAT WILL EMERGE FROM THESE NEGOTIATIONS, WE DO NOT THINK IT DESIRABLE FOR THE AMBASSADOR HIMSELF TO SIGN. WE WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE IF MASTERS WERE TO HAVE SIGNED THE OVERALL MOA'S AS THE NITHIPHAT-MASTERS EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CLEARLY EQUATED THE NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY OF BOTH KRIANGSAK AND MASTERS. IN VIEW OF MASTERS' DEPARTURE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THINKING ON THIS QUESTION. ROBINSON

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